

## Hymn

(Graham Kendrick)

Shine Jesus shine.  
Fill this land with the Father's glory.  
Blaze, Spirit blaze,  
set our hearts on fire.  
Flow river flow,  
flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth Your word,  
Lord, and let there be light.

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,  
so may our faces display Your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory,  
mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

## An Advent prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the  
works of darkness and to put on the armour of  
light, now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which Your Son Jesus Christ  
came to us in great humility,  
so that on the last day  
when He shall come again in His glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal,  
through Him who is alive and reigns  
with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

## A blessing

May the Lord bestow on you  
the precious gift of His blessing:  
that you may know the infinite richness,  
the endless goodness, of God's love,  
a personal love for you,  
a gift more precious than all the gifts of this  
world, a gift that none of us can earn,  
for we are already and always precious to God.

May the Lord bless you,  
wonderfully bless you  
with this precious gift of His love.  
Amen



# Light of the World

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**Caraway**  
Spirituallly Resourcing the Older Person

### Introductory thoughts

We are near the end of another year.  
Perhaps a time to look back and review what has  
happened in our lives.  
A time when there is more darkness than light.  
A time when we long for light.  
We see that light can penetrate darkness but  
darkness can never extinguish light.

### Hymn

Jesus bids us shine  
with a pure clear light,  
like a little candle,  
burning in the night.  
In this world of darkness,  
so we must shine,  
you in your small corner  
and I in mine.

### Thoughts

In some churches in the Advent season (the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas) an Advent wreath is used. It has 4 red candles surrounding a white one. The candles are lit in succession each week, with the white one lit on Christmas Day.  
(You may like to use candles or perhaps battery tea lights for safety.)

These may represent the themes

**HOPE**

**PEACE**

**JOY**

**LOVE**

### Prayer

God of the ages, we come to You now  
and ask You to be close to us.  
When all seems dark,  
help us put our hope in You.  
When all seems turmoil,  
help us look to You for peace.  
When all seems despair and sadness,  
bring Your joy.  
May we know Your deep, deep love  
surrounding us.  
Jesus, Emmanuel, God always with us,  
we commit ourselves to You.  
Amen.

### Bible verses

*God said, "Let there be light," and there was  
light and it was good.*  
Genesis 1:3

*Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, whoever  
follows me will not walk in darkness  
but will have the light of life."*  
John 8:1

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.....*  
Galatians 5:22

### Hymn

(Tate and Brady 1696)

Through all the changing scenes of life,  
in trouble and in joy,  
the praises of my God shall still  
my heart and tongue employ.

O magnify the Lord with me,  
with me exalt His name,  
when in distress to Him I called,  
He to my rescue came.

O make but trial of His love,  
experience will decide  
how blest are they, and only they  
who in His truth confide.

### Prayer

God, our creator, You made light at the  
beginning of time. Sun, moon and stars.  
At this season many use little lights as  
decorations, candles and fairy lights.  
All light is good. It helps us to see.  
Angel lights came to shepherds long ago.  
They went to Bethlehem and saw a baby  
Who had come to be the light of the world.  
Light to shine in the darkness.  
To banish darkness. To overcome sin.  
To bring love, joy, peace to all mankind.  
Help us to live reflecting that light.  
In this Christmas season, may our gift to others  
be ourselves and our prayers for them  
that love, joy and peace may abound. Amen.